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BRIXWORTH RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

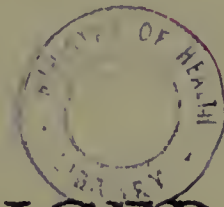
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1959

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.



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JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

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Council Offices,
Brixworth,
Northampton.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1959, incorporating that of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

The vital statistics for the year 1959 show that there were 214 deaths, a decrease of 12 on last year. This gives a Crude Rate of 11.11 (Standardized Rate 8.5), compared with the national figure of 11.6. Female deaths exceeded male deaths by 18. The great preponderance of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation is once more evident, making a total of 121, of which 36 died from coronary disease alone, a further 60 from heart disease, and 25 from vascular lesions of the nervous system. Diseases of the heart and vascular system constitutes, therefore, 56% of the total deaths. The causes of vascular degeneration are at the present time the object of much research and one must hope that a knowledge and clearer understanding of how to control arterial disease will emerge. The remaining scourge, cancer, continues to take its toll, resulting this year in 32 deaths, a decline of 10 on last year, but showing an increase of from 5 to 8 in cancer of the lung. Thus diseases of the circulation combined with cancer constitutes over 70% of the total deaths. During the last five years these are showing no decline and are tending to keep the expectation of life static. More people live to get older, but the span of life is not yet increasing.

The total number of live births was 288, a decline from 303 last year, the illegitimate rate again showing a slight fall. Only 3 infant deaths occurred, one in the first week of life. The infant death rate has again fallen to 10.4 from 15.1 last year, and is well below the national figure of 22.

There was considerable fall in the notification of infectious disease, largely due to decline in measles notifications. Once again no case of poliomyelitis is recorded. Again this year large numbers of children and adults received vaccination against this disease. There were no deaths from tuberculosis, but other

infections of the respiratory system remain both as cause of death and of ill health, and constitute the commonest groups of illness. Influenza and bronchitis are the two most frequent causes of incapacity for work. In this district 12 deaths resulted from bronchitis, 8 from pneumonia and 3 from influenza.

The necessity for the continued immunization of children against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis is once again stressed, with the reminder to parents not to overlook the reinforcing dose for diphtheria before entering school. The increase this year in numbers of children immunized against diphtheria is recorded with satisfaction.

Good progress continued to be made with the provision of new sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, and those at Boughton, Chapel Brampton and Clipston were completed, and those at Lamport and Hanging Houghton and Ravensthorpe were nearing completion.

Housing development continued in a satisfactory manner. Though no more Council houses were erected during the year, the Council did decide to erect a pair of old peoples' bungalows at Cold Ashby.

Private enterprise produced 62 houses (7 more than in 1958) making the total since the war 846. A further 111 houses were being erected at the end of 1959.

Improvement grants were made on 34 properties, as compared with 41 in 1958. During the year the new "Standard Grant" was introduced and 8 applications were approved for this type of grant.

In conclusion, thanks are expressed to all members of the Staff who contributed in any way towards the compilation of this report, in particular, to those of the Public Health Department, also the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for their interest and encouragement during the year under review. Appreciation is also expressed for the information on immunological measures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. E. T. Gardner (Chairman) | Mr. A. S. Tarrant (Deputy Chairman) |
| Mr. O. E. P. Wyatt, J.P. (Chairman of the Council) | Alderman C. M. Newton, M.B.E., (Vice-Chairman of the Council) |
| Mrs. V. G. Borwick | Mr. H. Kimbell |
| Mrs. W. S. Cowling | Mr. B. V. Morris |
| Mr. R. H. Dickins | Mr. T. R. Pegram |
| Mr. C. H. Gravely | Mr. E. A. Turney |
| Mrs. V. C. Harris | Mr. J. G. Wearing |
| Mr. J. R. Hart | Mr. W. R. M. Webster |
| Mr. W. A. Holland | Mr. W. Wood |

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.,
also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Daventry Rural District
Council, Daventry Borough Council, Assistant County
Medical Officer of Health, and School Medical Officer.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

F. A. RUSSELL, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

R. S. LINLEY.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | 82,944 |
| Population (est.) | ... | ... | 19,270 |
| Number of Separate Dwellings occupied | | | 6,157 |
| Rateable Value 1959 | ... | ... | £240,646 |
| Product of a Penny Rate | ... | ... | £980. |

| <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate per 1000 estimated</u> | <u>Rate for Northamp-tonshire</u> | <u>Rate for England and Wales</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Legitimate | 158 | 122 | 280 | | | |
| Illegitimate | <u>5</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>8</u> | | | |
| | <u>163</u> | <u>125</u> | <u>288</u> | 14.94 | 16.60 | 16.5 |

| <u>STILL BIRTHS</u> | | | | <u>Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births</u> | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|--|-------|------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | 13.7 | 19.20 | 20.7 |

| <u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u> | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Legitimate | 159 | 125 | 284 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 3 | 8 |

| <u>INFANT DEATHS</u> | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births. | | | | | | |
| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate per 1000 Live Births</u> | <u>Rate for Northamp-tonshire</u> | <u>Rate for England and Wales</u> |
| Legitimate | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10.4 | 20.20 | 22.0 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | Nil | | |

| <u>NEONATAL DEATHS.</u> | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|-----|--|------|
| Legitimate | 1 | - | 1 | 3.5 | | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | | | 15.8 |

| <u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK.</u> | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|------|-----|
| | 1 | - | 1 | | | |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births - | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 3.6% | |
| Maternal Mortality (including abortion) | | | | | | |
| " | " | | | | NIL | |
| per 1000 live and stillbirths. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | NIL | .38 |

| <u>DEATHS</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate per 1000 Popu-lation</u> | <u>Rate for Northamp-tonshire</u> | <u>Rate for England and Wales</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 98 | 116 | 214 | 11.11 | 10.77 | 11.6 |

TABULATED SUMMARY FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

| Year | Estimated Population | <u>Births</u> | | <u>Deaths</u> | | | |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | No. | Crude Rate | <u>Under 1 year</u> | | <u>All Ages</u> | |
| | | | | No. | Rate | No. | Crude Rate |
| 1949 | 17170 | 259 | 15.08 | 8 | 31.00 | 203 | 11.82 |
| 1950 | 17240 | 265 | 15.37 | 5 | 19.00 | 201 | 11.66 |
| 1951 | 17730 | 291 | 16.41 | 9 | 30.93 | 191 | 10.72 |
| 1952 | 17840 | 263 | 14.78 | 6 | 22.81 | 156 | 8.74 |
| 1953 | 17990 | 267 | 14.88 | 11 | 41.19 | 235 | 13.06 |
| 1954 | 18300 | 266 | 14.51 | 4 | 15.03 | 257 | 14.04 |
| 1955 | 18440 | 276 | 14.96 | 5 | 18.11 | 270 | 14.64 |
| 1956 | 18620 | 260 | 13.96 | 6 | 23.08 | 220 | 11.82 |
| 1957 | 18860 | 262 | 13.89 | 7 | 26.72 | 240 | 12.72 |
| 1958 | 19170 | 303 | 15.80 | 5 | 15.10 | 226 | 11.80 |
| 1959 | 19270 | 283 | 14.94 | 3 | 10.4 | 214 | 11.11 |

S E C T I O N A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Rural District is centrally situated in the County of Northamptonshire, extending in the south from the County Borough of Northampton to the Leicestershire border in the north. The character of the area is largely rural and the main industry is agriculture. A few light industries are scattered throughout the district. Open cast iron workings are present in the vicinity of Pitsford and Brixworth.

The district presents a picture of largely unspoilt rural country, with many woods, set in an undulating countryside enlivened by the stretches of water of the reservoirs, which are characteristic of the area.

POPULATION. The Registrar General estimated the population for the mid-year 1959 to be 19270, an increase of 100 over the previous year. The natural increase in population, the excess of births over deaths, was 74.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 214 compared with 226 in 1958. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 11.11 compared with 11.8 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with the four previous years :-

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Recorded</u> <u>Rate</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1955 | 270 | 105 | 165 | 14.64 |
| 1956 | 220 | 104 | 116 | 11.82 |
| 1957 | 240 | 88 | 152 | 12.72 |
| 1958 | 226 | 98 | 128 | 11.8 |
| 1959 | 214 | 98 | 116 | 11.11 |

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as .77 for this District. In addition the area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in the area. There are a number of institutions in this area for old people and this adjustment is therefore very necessary in order to obtain a true picture of the area mortality.

The Standardized Death Rate, therefore, is 8.5 and well below the figure of 11.11 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are shown in the statistical table on page 8. and are classified under thirty six headings, based on the abbreviated list of the International, Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948, as used for England and Wales.

Over half the deaths are caused by diseases of the heart and the vascular system, making a total of 121, of which 36 were due to diseases of the coronary vessels supplying the heart, while 25 were from lesions of the blood vessels supplying the brain, and a further 60 from high blood pressure and heart disease alone. Thus atherosclerosis constitutes 56% of the total deaths. The causes of atherosclerosis, the mainly degenerative condition of the arteries is not yet determined. It is largely an ageing process commencing earlier in some than others, but many other factors which include those attributable to civilization and "our way of life" may be cited, including sedentary life, diet, smoking, stress and hormonal factors. None have been conclusively proved, but each may play its part. A man may indeed be considered to be "as old as his arteries", and until the causes and prevention of atheroma are determined the duration of life may not be prolonged.

In the vanguard of death, following closely come the cancers. Again diseases more commonly of the later years, and again the etiology is unknown. Cancer is a disorder of growth, certain cells grow uncontrolled and destroy their host structure, and later they can disseminate to other parts of the body and further destroy. The causes that stimulate malignant growth are so far unknown and little can be done to prevent it. However, many cancers are curable provided diagnosis is early and before the dissemination of secondary growths take place. In this district there was a happy decline of 10 deaths from cancer last year making a total of 32. There was, however, an increase from 5 to 8 of cancer of the lung, the rate of which increases each year.

A further 27 deaths were the result of respiratory infections chronic bronchitis causing 12 deaths, pneumonia 8, and influenza 3. Bronchitis the "English Disease" still causes much distress and chronic ill-health and may be the ultimate cause of death, perhaps after many years of suffering. The prevention of respiratory infections still presents many difficulties.

M O R T A L I T Y T A B L E.

| <u>Causes of Death</u> | | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory .. | - | - | - |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other .. | - | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease .. | - | - | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria .. | - | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough .. | - | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections .. | - | - | - |
| 7. | Acute poliomyelitis .. | - | - | - |
| 8. | Measles .. | - | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases .. | - | - | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus .. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast .. | - | 4 | 4 |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. | - | 3 | 3 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 16. | Diabetes .. | 1 | - | 1 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system .. | 9 | 16 | 25 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina .. | 18 | 18 | 36 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease .. | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 20. | Other heart disease .. | 11 | 39 | 50 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease .. | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 22. | Influenza .. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 23. | Pneumonia .. | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 24. | Bronchitis .. | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system .. | 1 | - | 1 |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. | 1 | - | 1 |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. | - | 1 | 1 |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis .. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate .. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. | - | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations .. | 1 | - | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents .. | 5 | - | 5 |
| 34. | All other accidents .. | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 35. | Suicide .. | 2 | - | 2 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war .. | - | - | - |
| | | <u>98</u> | <u>116</u> | <u>214</u> |

Associated Mortality Statistics:-

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| STILL BIRTHS .. | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| DEATHS of infants under 1 year | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks (included in previous figure) | 1 | - | 1 |

BIRTHS. The number of live births assigned to this district was 288, compared with 303 in 1958. The rate per thousand of the population was 14.94. Applying the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.04) to this figure the Standardized Birth Rate obtained for this district - 15.54 - compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS. The number of still births during 1959 was 4 (1 male and 3 females). The resultant rate for the district is 13.7 which is less than the rate of 20.7 for England and Wales. The rates for the past five years are given in the following table (per 1,000 live and still births) by way of comparison.

STILL BIRTH RATE.

| <u>1955</u> | <u>1956</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1959</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 28.16 | 19.23 | 30.55 | 13.08 | 13.7 |

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. There were 8 illegitimate births assigned to the district during the year (5 males and 3 females), compared with 10 in 1958. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births this represents 3.6 per cent.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. No deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth were recorded during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY. The number of infants who died before reaching their first birthday was 3 (1 male and 2 females), compared with 5 in 1958. The resultant rate of 10.4 compares favourably with 22.0 for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE UNDER 1 YEAR PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

| <u>1955</u> | <u>1956</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1959</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 18.11 | 23.07 | 26.72 | 15.1 | 10.4 |

NEONATAL DEATH RATE. The number of infants who failed to survive for 4 weeks after birth was 1 (male). This gives a rate per 1,000 live births of 3.5 or 0.35 per cent. This is very much lower than the rate of 15.8 for England and Wales.

These deaths are included in the Infant Mortality Rate.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

| | <u>Neonatal.</u> | <u>1 - 12</u> <u>Months.</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Prematurity .. | 1 | - |
| Tracheo-bronchitis | - | 1 |
| Broncho pneumonia | - | 1 |

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

LABORATORY SERVICE. Laboratory work in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases is carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory in Northampton under Dr. Hoyle.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES. The following centres are held at the places and dates indicated. Your Medical Officer of Health is in attendance in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer.

BRIXWORTH INFANT WELFARE -

3rd. Friday each month at Village Hall.

WELFORD INFANT WELFARE -

4th Thursday each month at Village Hall.

BOUGHTON INFANT WELFARE -

2nd Wednesday each month at Boughton Institute.

MOULTON INFANT WELFARE -

1st Tuesday each month at Manfield Hall.

SPRATTON INFANT WELFARE -

4th Tuesday each month at Women's Institute.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

General medical and surgical cases are removed by the County Ambulance Service, under the control of the County Council. Infectious diseases cases are also removed under the same arrangements.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The Services of District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors are provided by the County Council, and the area is well covered. The Home Help Service is also provided by the County Council and is usually made through the direction and recommendation of the District Nurse. This is a very necessary service, and affords considerable benefit to the Community, particularly, in this area in the care of Old People, who can remain comfortably at home, and who, without this help would be in Institutions.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Cases of Infectious Disease which require isolation are treated at the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, which comes under the administration of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE. (National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47). Action was taken in respect of one old man. This was a vigorous and independent individual who lived in a lonely cottage, without any amenities and over a mile from the next habitation. He became very ill and refused to be moved. He was finally removed on a three weeks Order to Hospital where he recovered sufficiently to return home. He was able to stay at home for a further nine months. He received a little assistance from his relatives, but it was largely due to the daily care given to him by the Assistant Public Health Inspector, in his free time, and his wife, that he was able to remain at home for so long. Finally he became unwell again, took to wandering at night, was becoming confused and falling about and developed ulceration of the legs. It was felt that it had become unsafe for him to remain alone, especially at night in his cottage, and sadly your Medical Officer made application to Court for a three months order. He was sent to Hospital where his health once again improved, and he is now in Part III accommodation in good health.

Many agencies are responsible for the care of old people, and include, for the aged sick the general practitioner and hospital services. For the old people at home the services of the health visitor, and the home help provided by the Health Department of the County Council who also supply certain home equipment where necessary. The Welfare Department of the County Council are responsible for homes which include the Part III accommodation and the District Council for the provision of individual houses for the old. The National Assistance Board contribute financially, and finally there are a number of voluntary bodies who run Darby and Joan Clubs; in the towns, the meals on wheels service, arrange holidays at the seaside, assist with chiropody and visit homes.

The co-ordination and liaison between all these bodies can be happily fulfilled by the Medical Officer of Health.

By the skilful and early application of these services many an old person can be saved from breakdown. Action, therefore, under Section 47, which indeed amounts to the compulsory removal of old people against their will, but in their best interests, can often be avoided.

S E C T I O N C .

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All responsibility for water undertaking throughout the entire Rural District is now vested in the Mid-Northants Water Board. No evidence of unsatisfactory water supplies came to notice during 1959.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Satisfactory progress was again maintained, and work was proceeding on the schemes for Lamport, Hanging Houghton and Ravensthorpe, whilst those for Boughton, Chapel Brampton, and Clipston were completed. This brings the number of schemes completed since the war to 23.

DISINFECTION. Concurrent and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous liquid disinfectants is carried out in homes where certain infectious diseases are notified. In the course of the year a number of requests for disinfection of premises were received and dealt with.

DISINFESTATION. This service is carried out on behalf of the Council at the request of owners or tenants of houses complaining of the presence of vermin. No such action was necessary during 1959. (This includes the eradication of bed bugs).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year the existing staff proved adequate to discharge the Council's responsibilities under the Act; no major rat infestations occurred on the Council's properties throughout the period under review. Refuse tips are treated regularly throughout the year.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS. No licences were granted by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269.

SCAVENGING. Refuse is still collected fortnightly throughout the District, but the Council has agreed to adopt a weekly collection, with effect from 1st April, 1960.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Housing Act, 1957.

| | |
|--|------|
| No. of permanent dwellings in area | 6157 |
| Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation according to Sec.16 of the Act and suitable for action under Secs.17 & 42 of the Housing Act 1957 .. | 344 |
| Period of years for demolition of such | 1 |
| No. of houses for inclusion in Clearance Areas .. | 211 |
| No. of houses already covered by Clearance Orders .. | 3 |
| No. of houses for individual demolition | 130 |

It is of interest to note that, for the purposes of the report, the total number of unfit houses revealed by the original survey, plus subsequent additions is 927 but by the time the report had been prepared 276 of these had been sufficiently improved to merit upgrading, whilst a further 307 had been demolished.

The usual work of the Council under the Housing and Public Health Acts continued, and the details are set out in tabular form below and on page 33.

Housing Act, 1957, Section 17.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. No. of unfit houses represented .. | 7 |
| 2. No. of Demolition Orders made .. | 4 |
| 3. No. of houses demolished .. | 14 |
| 4. No. of persons affected .. | 1 |

Housing Act, 1957, Section 42.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. No. of Clearance Orders made .. | Nil |
| 2. No. of houses included in Area .. | Nil |
| 3. No. of houses demolished .. | Nil |
| 4. No. of persons affected .. | Nil |

Other associated housing statistics.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. No. of undertakings received .. | 12 |
| 2. No. of unfit houses upgraded .. | 30 |

From these details it will be observed that the total number of unfit houses throughout the district declined by 27 during the year, either through improvements or demolition, whilst a further 12 came under control by means of undertakings from the respective owners not to re-let after vacation until made fit for human habitation.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN HOUSING SINCE INITIAL SURVEY IN 1945.

As during the year the Council approached the final stages of their Slum Clearance Programme, a brief review of their progress under this heading since the initial survey made in 1945, under the Hobhouse Report, may not be out of place in this Report. The original survey revealed a total of 875 houses not repairable at reasonable cost. During the years, and up to the end of 1959, routine inspections have added a further 52, making a total of 927 unfit houses which have had to be dealt with.

A re-survey in 1953 showed that although emphasis up to this stage had been placed on the building of houses for general needs, some progress in slum clearance had been made. 334 houses had been dealt with, 224 by Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders, or Undertakings, whilst 110 had been upgraded. This survey also showed that the balance of 541 on the original survey figure of 875, were more than half of them occupied by elderly people, and in the majority of these cases the occupants had reached the age when it would perhaps be unreasonable to move them and in any case, most of these elderly people would prefer to stay where they were for their remaining years. It was then at this stage that the Council decided, where possible, to obtain undertakings from the owners of these properties, not to re-let them when vacated, and when so vacant to deal further with them.

By 1957 the building of new houses for general needs was practically completed in the district, and the Council were then able to make a start in building for slum clearance rehousing, and during the succeeding years 48 houses were built for this purpose, so that at the time of writing this Report there are practically no families remaining in Category V. houses, such sub-standard houses which are occupied being tenanted by single elderly persons and old couples. A start towards the rehousing of these where the conditions made such a course imperative, was made by the proposed erection of two aged persons' bungalows at Cold Ashby, a contract for which was let towards the end of the year, and it is hoped there will be others in 1960.

At the end of the year under review a summary of the position is as follows :-

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. dealt with by Undertakings | 279 |
| No. dealt with by Demolition Order or Clearance Order | 333 |
| No. repaired by owners and up-graded | 276 |
| No. remaining to be dealt with | 39 |

From these figures it will be seen that only 39, an average of exactly one per parish remain to be dealt with. A very satisfactory position. Of those dealt with by Undertakings, Demolition Orders and Clearance Orders, 145 remain standing but are unoccupied. The majority of these will in due time be demolished, but usually they are situated in groups with other occupied Category V. properties, and demolition cannot take place until all are vacated.

The only other comment that I would make is that of the 276 upgraded, 64 of these have been done with the help of Improvement Grants at a total cost to public funds of £12,972. 10. 0d. A very favourable investment when set against the alternative of 64 Council Houses at an estimated total cost of £100,000.

S E C T I O N E .

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

The above Regulations made jointly by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, came into operation on 8th March, 1959, and brought earlier regulations into line with modern methods of milk production. They simplified much of the existing procedure, making it easier for milk to be produced, handled and distributed under up to date hygienic conditions.

The enforcement of the Regulations is the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and (as regards milk distribution and infected milk) by the Local Authority.

On November 25th, 1957, the Rural District became a Specified Area for the sale of milk, as a result of which no milk which has not been tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilized may be sold in the area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - CLEAN FOOD.

DAIRIES. There are three registered dairies in the District, and during the year a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained therein.

FOOD PREMISES. There are 88 food premises in the District, the total number being made up as follows :- 66 shops, 4 cafes, 13 butchers shops and 5 bakeries.

CONDEMNED FOOD. Condemned food is disposed of in one of two ways, i.e. tinned food is buried at one of the Council's refuse tips, and unsound meat is sent to The Pytchley Hunt Kennels.

ICE CREAM. Most retailers are still selling pre-packed varieties only, but with the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, it is now possible to register premises for the sale of both completely wrapped and partly wrapped products.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

During the year efforts have been made to improve further the general standard of Food Hygiene throughout the District. In spite of the difficulties involved it can

fairly be stated that the majority of food traders are endeavouring to attain satisfactory standards. 56 visits were paid to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

During the year it became necessary to take action under the various Acts and Orders made under the Slaughterhouses Act 1958, and in particular the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, and the Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction, 1959.

There are eight licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and it was clear to those of your officers who have in the course of their duties to make routine inspection of these premises, that all fell very short of the standards required by the new Regulations. At least half cannot be made to comply, and the remainder require extensive alterations and improvements.

It was no surprise therefore when at a meeting held at the Council Offices towards the end of the year between officers of the Council, the owners and occupiers of the slaughterhouses concerned, along with other interested parties, three of the slaughterhouse owners stated that they would not be interested in continuing to operate their slaughterhouses.

At a following meeting, subsequent to the other five slaughterhouse owners having been informed of the respects in which their premises fell short of the requirements of the new Regulations, another owner decided he was unable to proceed with the necessary works, leaving four who were prepared to bring their slaughterhouses up to the standard prescribed. This number is considered sufficient for the district, provided that adequate facilities are available at Northampton and Market Harborough to meet the needs of those who are not prepared to, or cannot, bring their premises up to the required standard.

The report required under Section 3(1) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, was submitted to the Ministry early in 1960, with a suggestion that the new Regulations should come into operation in this district on the 1st October, 1961. At the time of writing this report the Council are still awaiting the Minister's findings.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Inspection of meat was maintained at 100%, and findings are recorded below in a table based on that suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

| | Cattle | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|--------|--------|-----------------|------|
| Number killed (if known) | 231 | 5 | 4191 | 247 |
| Number inspected | 231 | 5 | 4191 | 247 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 89 | Nil | 65 | Nil |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 38.52 | Nil | 1.55 | Nil |
| <u>Tuberculosis only.</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 2 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | 2 | 6 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. | 0.87 | Nil | Nil | 0.81 |
| <u>Cysticercosis.</u> | | | | |
| Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Generalised and totally condemned .. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

S E C T I O N F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a considerable decrease in the notification of infectious diseases. This was largely due to a decline of measles (from 400 last year to 159 this year).

MEASLES. Following its usual biennial incidence there were less notifications, though this figure showed a greater number than in 1957, when there were only 86 notifications. The disease, like scarlet fever appears to be becoming more benign in character. Its infectivity remains, however, very high, and few attain adult life without suffering from the disease. Occasional complications such as pneumonia, ear and eye infections do still occur, especially in those whose general health was poor at the time of infection.

SCARLET FEVER. This disease continues in its mild phase. Its principle interest is that it gives a rough indication of the amount of streptococcal infection in the community.

WHOOPING COUGH. This is another condition which is becoming largely more benign, and the number of cases are declining. To young infants, however, whooping cough can be a serious and distressing illness, and the policy of many practitioners and the County Council in promoting early immunization to this condition, will, it is hoped, prevent early onset and cause an ultimate decline in incidence.

DYSENTERY. No cases were notified. This was fortunate for the District, as there was a considerable incidence of Sonne dysentery in other parts of the County.

POLIOMYELITIS. Once again the District had no cases. The immunization of large numbers continued throughout the County and a total of 1819 were immunized, with a further 1600 receiving their third injection. It is hoped that now a marked decline in incidence may follow.

FOOD POISONING. Two cases occurred, one of Salmonella Infantis, in a young pregnant woman, who had become a carrier. She was symptomless and no known cases occurred as a result of contact with her. Freedom from infection was finally established after treatment for three months. The source of infection was never established, and is often difficult when an isolated case occurs.

The second case was one of Paratyphoid B. This was also a young married woman, who had picked up her infection while on holiday in Paris. She was admitted to Hospital where she became free from infection. No contact of hers was infected, and there were no further cases.

TYPHOID FEVER. No cases occurred.

DIPHTHERIA. There were no cases. There was an increase in the number of children immunized. The total diphtheria immunizations rising from 179 to 266, a marked increase, and of booster immunizations from 97 to 112. This increase is noted with satisfaction.

PNEUMONIA. 10 cases were notified and there were 8 deaths. Respiratory infection continues to be a cause of much ill health and chronic suffering. A very marked decline in deaths from pneumonia has taken place since the discovery of the sulphonamides and antibiotics, however, in chronic sufferers from bronchitis and in the aged and debilitated, some cases do still prove fatal.

SMALLPOX. Once again no cases were notified this year.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

This year a total of 94 less children received primary vaccination. This falls far below the number desired, and in these days when the journey from a country, where small-pox is endemic, can be made in a few hours, the necessity for vaccination, particularly primary vaccination in the first year of life, is emphasized.

There was a slight increase (4) of persons receiving revaccination.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Total diphtheria immunization totalled 301, with 112 receiving their booster injections. This shows a gratifying increase on last year's figures in both primary immunization and reinforcing doses.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

| | <u>Under 1.</u> | <u>1.</u> | <u>2 - 4.</u> | <u>5 - 14.</u> | <u>15 or over.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Primary | 118 | 19 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 161 |
| Re-vaccination | - | - | 2 | 8 | 49 | 59 |

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

| <u>Under 1.</u> | <u>1.</u> | <u>2.</u> | <u>3.</u> | <u>4.</u> | <u>5-9.</u> | <u>10-14.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Third inj's. 0 - 14</u> | <u>15 or over.</u> | <u>3rd.</u> |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 23 | 169 | 52 | 33 | 37 | 136 | 194 | 644 | 1600 | 1175 | 698 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

| | <u>Under 1.</u> | <u>1.</u> | <u>2.</u> | <u>3.</u> | <u>4.</u> | <u>5-9.</u> | <u>10-14.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Booster.</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Diphtheria Immunization only. | 22 | 3 | 8 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 35 | 62 |
| Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough. | 199 | 28 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 266 | 50 |
| <u>Total</u> Diphtheria Immunizations | 221 | 31 | 28 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 301 | 112 |
| Whooping Cough Only. | 29 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 32 | 6 |

Number of Children who have completed a full
Course of Diphtheria Immunization.

| <u>Age at 31.12.59.</u> <u>i.e. Born in year.</u> | <u>Under 1.</u> <u>1959</u> | <u>1.</u> <u>1958</u> | <u>2.</u> <u>1957</u> | <u>3.</u> <u>1956</u> | <u>4.</u> <u>1955</u> | <u>5-9.</u> <u>1950-1954</u> | <u>10-14.</u> <u>1945-1949</u> | <u>Total</u> <u>Under 15.</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number Immunized | 58 | 213 | 216 | 182 | 215 | 1190 | 1107 | 3181 |

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES
AND DEATHS, 1959.

| Age Groups | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---|-------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Other | | Pulmonary | | Other | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 - .. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - .. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - .. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - .. | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Age unknown | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

S E C T I O N G.

F A C T O R I E S A C T, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937, FOR THE YEAR 1959.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF REGISTERED FACTORIES
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1959.

| | | | Power | Non- Power |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. | Food manufacture | .. | 8 | 1 |
| 2. | Wearing Apparel :- | | | |
| | (a) Boots and Shoes | .. | 1 | - |
| | (b) Outfitting | .. | 1 | - |
| 3. | Carpentry, Joinery & Sawmills | | 10 | 5 |
| 4. | Garages, Repair Shops & Engineers | | 11 | 5 |
| 5. | Laundries | | 3 | - |
| 6. | Plumbers | | - | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | 34 | 13 |

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

| Premises | No. on Register | Number of | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 13 | 32 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 34 | 11 | - | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | - | - | - | - |
| | 47 | 43 | - | - |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|--|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | to H.M. Inspec. | by H.M. Inspec. | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | - | - | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.

| Nature of Work | Section 110 | | | | Section 111 | |
|------------------------|--|--|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(i)(c) | No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in un-whole some premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Making Wearing Apparel | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |

SUMMARY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S INSPECTIONS.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|------|
| Housing | .. | .. | 1594 |
| Slaughter houses and Butchers Shops | | | 447 |
| Bakehouses | .. | .. | 9 |
| Cafes | .. | .. | 5 |
| Shops | .. | .. | 56 |
| Factories and Workshops | | .. | 48 |
| Water Supplies | .. | .. | 14 |
| Infectious Diseases | | .. | 8 |
| Defective Drainage | | .. | 60 |
| Defective Premises | | .. | 121 |
| Pests Destruction | | .. | 82 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | | .. | 71 |
| Dairies | .. | .. | 5 |
| Verminous Premises | | .. | 2 |
| Animals improperly kept | | .. | 4 |
| Offensive Accumulations | | .. | 6 |

2532

NOTICES SERVED :-

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Informal | - Section 92 Public Health Act, 1936 | 7 |
| Statutory | -do- | Nil |

